Reviewer's report

Title: Establishment and characterization of pleomorphic adenoma cell systems: an in-vitro demonstration of carcinomas arising secondarily from adenomas in the salivary gland.

Version: 3 Date: 15 April 2009

Reviewer: Ivana Magnani

Reviewer’s report:

Although most of the revisions have been considered by the authors some interventions in the DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS are needed:

Discussion:
line 3: delete “have”
line 21: consider to start with “Interesting”…
line 24 to 38: the authors attempt to discuss that squamous cell carcinoma observed in xenografts are different from those of the oral mucosal origin supporting a pleomorphic adenoma origin. This point should be more concise.
line 40: delete “not only” and “but”
line 45: delete “for” and put “of”

Conclusions:
line 3 to 9: the text contains some too speculative sentences:
adenoma-carcinoma sequence ……; some cell groups containing cancer stem cells………;
Consider to simplify as follows:
The present data suggest that pleomorphic adenoma contains cells with genetic alterations even when its histology is benign and that carcinoma cells may develop from some of the population of benign forms. If the atypical cells within benign pleomorphic adenoma (3) can be the direct source for malignant transformation is hard to say. Since....................

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'